

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-03 SP-02 L-01 SAM-01 PRS-01 RSC-01

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P R 051810Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6656

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18840

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION ON IEA

REF: A) PARIS 29107, B) BONN 18625

1. IN DISCUSSIONS OF EC SUMMIT PREPARATIONS WITH
FRG OFFICIALS, WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL INDICATIONS
THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS RECEIVED A COMMITMENT
FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD TO BRING FRANCE INTO IEA
IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS. EARLIER THIS WEEK A WELL-
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PLACED OFFICIAL IN CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TOLD US THAT

A FIRM PREREQUISITE FOR THE FRG CONCESSIONS BEING MADE AT THAT TIME IN BRUSSELS ON EC REGIONAL FUND WAS A COMMITMENT BY FRANCE ON ITS PART TO PARTICIPATE IN IEA (REF B). ON DEC 4 MORAWITZ, THE DEPUTY ASST SEC FOR EC AFFAIRS IN ECONOMICS MINISTRY, CONFIRMED THAT SCHMIDT HAD RECEIVED A FRENCH COMMITMENT TO JOIN IEA IN COURSE OF 90 MINUTE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON ENERGY WITH GISCARD. MORAWITZ DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS COMMITMENT WILL SURFACE AT EC SUMMIT. HE UNDERSTAND THAT GISCARD INSISTED THAT A DECENT INTERVAL MUST ENSUE FOLLOWING BOTH THE SUMMIT AND THE MARTINIQUE MEETING--PERHAPS FOUR MONTHS OR SO. HOWEVER AT THAT TIME FRANCE WOULD NOT SIMPLY MOVE TOWARD SOME TENUOUS FORM OF PARTICIPATION, BUT WOULD AGREE TO COME IN TO IEA AS A FULL MEMBER.

2. COMMENT: SINCE FRG AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT EC REGIONAL FUND WAS A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE FOR SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT, GISCARD MAY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO PAY A PRICE FOR THIS GERMAN CONCESSION. EVEN SO, IT STRIKES US THAT ANY COMMITMENT GISCARD WOULD HAVE GIVEN ON IEA WOULD HAVE BEEN LINKED AS WELL TO OVERALL SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT OUTCOME (FROM FRENCH POINT OF VIEW) AND TO OUTCOME OF MEETING AT MARTINIQUE.
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